

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 3105

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Environment, Water & Energy, February 26, 2010

Title: An act relating to including alternative fuel vehicles in a strategy to reduce fuel consumption and emissions from state agency fleets.

Brief Description: Allowing the director of financial management to include alternative fuel vehicles in a strategy to reduce fuel consumption and emissions from state agency fleets.

Sponsors: House Committee on Ecology & Parks (originally sponsored by Representatives Rolfes, Wallace, Kenney and Ormsby).

Brief History: Passed House: 2/10/10, 96-0.

Committee Activity: Environment, Water & Energy: 2/17/10, 2/26/10 [DPA].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, WATER & ENERGY

Majority Report: Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Rockefeller, Chair; Pridemore, Vice Chair; Honeyford, Ranking Minority Member; Delvin, Fraser, Morton, Oemig, Ranker and Sheldon.

Staff: Jan Odano (786-7486)

Background: The Director of the Department of General Administration (GA), in consultation with the Office of Financial Management (OFM) and other state agencies, must develop strategies to reduce fuel consumption and emissions from all classes of vehicles. State agencies must use the strategies to: phase-in fuel economy standards for motor pools and leased vehicles to achieve an average fuel economy standard of 36 miles per gallon (mpg) for passenger vehicles fleets by 2015; achieve an average fuel economy of 40 mpg for light duty vehicles; and achieve an average fuel economy standard of 27 mpg for light duty vans and sport utility vehicles (SUVs) purchased after June 15, 2010.

Beginning October 31, 2011, state agencies must annually report on the progress made to achieve the fuel economy standards and reduce vehicle emissions.

For all other classes of vehicles, GA must develop separate fleet fuel economy standard and provide a progress report on meeting the fuel consumption and emission goals to the Legislature and the Governor.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Average fuel economy calculations must be based on the current Environmental Protection Agency composite city and highway mile per gallon rating. Emergency response vehicles, passenger vans with a gross vehicle weight of 8,500 pounds or greater, vehicles purchased for off-pavement use; and vehicles driven less than 2,000 miles per year are excluded from the agency fleet average fuel economy calculation.

Summary of Bill (Recommended Amendments): After June, 15, 2010, state agency vehicle fleets must achieve an average fuel economy of 40 mpg for light duty passenger vehicles; and 27 mpg for light duty vans and SUVs; or purchase ultra-low carbon vehicles.

State agencies should consider, when financially comparable over a vehicle's useful life, purchasing or converting to ultra-low carbon fuel vehicles.

Definitions for petroleum based and ultra-low carbon fuel vehicle are provided.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY ENVIRONMENT, WATER & ENERGY COMMITTEE (Recommended Amendments): Clarifies that state agency vehicle fleets must achieve certain average fuel economies.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Substitute House Bill: PRO: This bill will give GA more purchasing options and flexibility to meet the fuel economy standards. The bill makes technical fixes to allow the use of alternative fuel vehicles in the state fleet and provide a lower emission standard and a lower emission level.

OTHER: A clarification needs to be made in the bill to allow GA some flexibility to purchase vehicles that don't necessarily meet the miles per gallon requirement but as a fleet meets the average miles per gallon.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative Rolfes, Prime Sponsor, Tom Dooley, Clean Energy.

OTHER: Bryan Bazard, GA.